

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1 through 18 (Cancelled).

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for coating articles, comprising:

means for supplying a solidifiable liquid coating material, said supply means having a surface along which the solidifiable liquid coating material flows;

an outlet slot positioned downstream of the supply means through which the solidifiable liquid coating material flows under the action of gravity to form a curtain;

means for effecting relative movement between the articles and the supply means whereby in use the articles are coated with the solidifiable liquid coating material in the curtain; and

means for introducing a first gas stream between the surface and the solidifiable liquid coating material so that flow characteristics of the curtain are modified, wherein the articles are articles of food and the solidifiable liquid coating material is an edible coating material.

Claim 20. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the edible coating material is chocolate.

Claim 21. (Cancelled)

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for coating articles, comprising:

means for supplying a solidifiable liquid coating material, said supply means having a surface along which the solidifiable liquid coating material flows;

an outlet slot positioned downstream of the supply means through which the solidifiable liquid coating material flows under the action of gravity to form a curtain;

means for effecting relative movement between the articles and the supply means whereby in use the articles are coated with the solidifiable liquid coating material in the curtain;

means for introducing a first gas stream between the surface and the solidifiable liquid coating material so that flow characteristics of the curtain are modified; and

means for introducing a second gas stream to the solidifiable liquid coating material after the curtain has been established in order to change a direction of the curtain and/or a physical property of the solidifiable liquid coating material forming the curtain.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising a curved surface positioned adjacent a portion of the curtain, wherein the second gas stream introducing means is arranged to cause the second gas stream to flow over the curved surface by virtue of a Coanda effect to induce a change in a direction of travel of the curtain.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising a controller for controlling a pressure of the first and/or second gas streams.

Claims 25-33. (Cancelled)

Claim 34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the supply means includes a trough having opposed surfaces leading towards the slot, and the first gas stream introducing means is arranged to introduce the first gas stream between the solidifiable liquid coating material and each of the opposed surfaces.

Claim 35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a controller for controlling a pressure of the first gas stream.